

County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health

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For Immediate Release

Good News for residents who live in the County of San Bernardino.

The Department of Public Health's Traffic S.A.F.E. (Safety Awareness For Everyone) Program received \$677,327.00 through a grant from The California Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. This funding will be used to educate the public about Driving-Under-the-Influence and Occupant Restraints focusing on 0 -35 years of age.

- In 2004, there were 121 fatalities and 5,402 injuries to motor vehicle occupants 0–35 years of age in the County of San Bernardino.
- Of the 121 fatalities, 62 fatalities were the result of misuse or non-use of safety equipment to motor vehicle occupants 0-35 years of age.
- Of the 5,402 injuries, 697 injuries were the result of misuse or non-use of safety equipment to motor vehicle occupants 0-35 years of age.
- Of the 121 fatalities, 51 fatalities were alcohol related to motor vehicle occupants 14-35 years of age.
- Of the 5,402 injuries, 673 injuries were alcohol related to motor vehicle occupants 14-35 years of age.

These startling statistics show the need for prevention education to County of San Bernardino children and young adults.

The Traffic S.A.F. E. Program and six Community- Based Organizations: Asian American Resource Center; Bear Valley Community Health Care District –Family Counseling Center; Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert; Boy Scouts of America – Inland Empire Counsel; High Desert Child; Adolescent and Family Services Center; and, Libreria del Pueblo, Inc., are in the process of providing education in the classrooms at Elementary Schools using a seat belt/booster seat curriculum “Safety in a Bag”. In September 2005 a DUI and Seat belt curriculum “ Grim Reaper” will be used in the high schools.

This funding will provide much needed education and training on child passenger safety, seat belt usage, and driving-under-the-influence. Regional fitting stations will provide education on the correct use and installation of child safety seats, to ensure that children are in the appropriate child safety seat and that parents are aware of current laws in California. It is estimated that 2,000 children will receive a child safety seat through this grant.

For more information please call,
1-800-722-3578 or 909- 388-0411